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ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT



Town of **EASTON** New Hampshire

Year ending December 31, 2002

The 2002 Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of

JOE PIMENTAL

1927-2003



Selectman 1990 - 1993

Capital Improvement Program Committee 2000 - 2001

Clerk of the Works for Town Hall Addition 2001 - 2002

Joe contributed to our Town in many ways. He had been a Selectman and a member of our Capital Improvement Program Committee that identified the long-term needs of the Town. Over the years, he helped solve maintenance problems at the Town Hall. Most recently, he had spent many hours as Clerk of the Works, working with our construction contractor to ensure that the new addition to the Town Hall was completed successfully, and that it effectively met our needs.

Joe enjoyed many recreational sports and activities. He was an avid golfer, sailor, skier and hiker. He loved to dance with his favorite partner and wife of 50 years, Helen. Joe had participated in many volunteer activities throughout his life. Most recently, he served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Littleton Area Senior Center.

We all miss you, Joe.

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ANNUAL REPORT
of the Town Officers
for the year ending December 31, 2002
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TOWN OFFICERS

Board of Selectmen

Robert Thibault - 2002

Keith Kidder - 2003

Robert Craven - 2004

Town Clerk

Barbara J. Collier

Treasurer

Terri Rainville

Auditor

Ralph Brigida

Tax Collector

Barbara J. Collier

Moderator

Jim Collier - 2004

Lafayette School Board

Stephen North - 2005

Cemetery Trustees

Pia Carmosino - 2004 (Appointed)

Richard Larcom - 2004 (Appointed)

Trustee of the Trust Funds

Angela Brigida - 2004

Supervisors of the Checklist

M. Joan Laboe - 2004

Patricia O'Brien - 2006

Amy Kelley - 2008

Planning Board

Jim Collier - 2005

Kevin O'Brien - 2005

Andrew Noyes - 2003

Anita Craven - 2004

Keith Kidder (Ex Officio)

APPOINTED OFFICIALS & BOARD MEMBERS

Fire Chief

Charles Casey

Police Chief

Robert Every

Zoning Board

Greg Sorg - 2006

Dennis Ford - 2005

Joseph Exley - (Alt)

John Hynes - 2005

Kathleen Thibault - 2004

Robert Craven - (Ex-Officio)

Health Officer

Dr. Parker Towle

Conservation Commission

Michael Kenney - 2005

Richard Larcom -2006

Recreation Committee

Michael Kenney

Brian Canelas

Road Agent

Robert Peckett

Emergency Management Director

Arthur Rainville

Welfare Officer

Keith Kidder

TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MARCH 11, 2003

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 11, 2003. Polls will be open from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for voting on Article 1. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

To act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year (ballot vote).

ARTICLE 2. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,099.00 for general Town operations as follows:

4130 - Executive	\$ 9,500.00
4140 - Election, Registration & Vital Stats & Town Clerk	3,450.00
4150 - Financial Administration	2,850.00
4152 - Revaluation of Individual Properties	900.00
4153 - Legal Expenses	5,000.00
4155 - Personnel Administration - Payroll Taxes	313.00
4191 - Planning & Zoning	5,000.00
4194 - Government Buildings	6,500.00
4195 - Cemetery	975.00
4196 - Insurance	2,800.00
4197 - Advertising & Regional Associations	1,690.00
4199 - Contingency Fund	5,000.00
4210 - Police Department	6,000.00
4215 - Ambulances	1,800.00
4220 - Fire Department	13,000.00
4290 - Forest Fire Control	625.00
4299 - Communications (Dispatch)	1,000.00
4312 - Highway Maintenance	24,000.00
4324 - Solid Waste	13,746.00
4414 - Animal & Pest Control	120.00
4415 - Health Agencies & Hospitals	1,376.00
4419 - Hospice	210.00
4442 - Welfare Assistance	1,000.00
4449 - Tri-County Community Action Program	550.00
4520 - Tri-Town Recreation Programs	6,000.00
4612 - Conservation Commission	100.00
4711 - Principal Payment on \$120,000 Construction Bond	6,000.00
4721 - Interest on \$120,000 Construction Bond	5,344.00
4723 - Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes	<u>250.00</u>
Total Appropriations before Warrant Articles	\$125,099.00

ARTICLE 3. Capital Reserve Fund for Town Revaluation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund for Town Revaluation (the Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article).

ARTICLE 4. Easton Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund for equipment acquisition and replacement for the Easton Fire Department (the Selectmen recommend this Article).

ARTICLE 5. Resurfacing/Repairing and Tree Trimming of Town Roads

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to continue the program of resurfacing, repairing and tree trimming of Town roads (the Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article).

ARTICLE 6. Expanded Veterans' Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, V and VI for an optional veterans' exemption and an expanded qualifying war service for veterans seeking the exemption. The optional veterans' exemption is \$100.00, rather than \$50.00 (the Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article). (There are 18 Veterans in Easton, so the effect of this is to decrease tax revenue by $18 \times \$50.00 = \900.00).

ARTICLE 7. Dredging Town Pond

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to dredge the man-made Town Pond and install a dry hydrant for water supply and fire protection purposes (the Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article). (This amount will be matched by a grant obtained by the Easton Fire Department from the NH Rural Fire Protection Initiative).

ARTICLE 8. Purchase of Municipal Software

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$6,000.00 for the purchase of municipal software to support the work of the Easton Town Clerk and Easton Tax Collector (the Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article).

ARTICLE 9. To act upon any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

Selectmen of Easton
Robert B. Craven, Chair
Robert W. Thibault
Keith Kidder

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Our Board handles the routine business of the Town. We enforce the Zoning Ordinance, issue building permits and logging permits, fill vacancies on the various other Town boards, handle Town personnel and staffing issues, make welfare and tax abatement decisions, and work to remain abreast of the ever-changing state laws that could impact the Town.

A new state law RSA 79-D Discretionary Preservation Easements should be of particular interest to several of our residents who maintain farms. This statute declares it to be in the public interest to encourage the preservation of historic agricultural structures which are potentially subject to decay or demolition, thus maintaining the historic rural character of the state's landscape, sustaining agricultural traditions, and providing an attractive scenic environment for work and recreation of the state's citizens and visitors. This statute gives the taxing officials the discretion to tax qualifying property at between 25% and 75% of full value assessment. We have already communicated this information directly to one resident who has expressed interest in obtaining some financial assistance with the restoration of his historic barn.

Town Hall Addition for Administrative Offices:

This new addition was completed early this year by our contractor Stan Sherburn. In April, the Town Office and all Town records were moved into it from our Town Clerk and Tax Collector's private home. This new addition has been skillfully melded to the Town Hall in an esthetically pleasing way, and now provides very pleasant and efficient offices and a meeting room for Town officials and boards. In conjunction with completion of this new addition, the existing Town Hall received some much-needed paint.

Administrative Changes:

The Town administrative work continues to increase, and has become too big a job for one person. So we've assigned the duties of Secretary to the Board of Selectmen to Terri Rainville, our Town Treasurer. Barbara Collier continues in her long-time dual role as Tax Collector and Town Clerk, but no longer has the additional burden as our Secretary.

We've purchased a new computer to support Terri in her duties, and have networked it to Barbara's computer and to the Town's laser printer. Having a second Town computer permits both Barbara and Terri to work on a computer at the same time, and also provides the safety of redundancy. Should one computer fail, all work could still continue uninterrupted on the other. We've made further progress in automating Town administrative work: all Town checks are now prepared on computer. This streamlines check writing and transaction logging, tracking and reporting.

Municipal Software for Town:

We feel that it is important to support our Town employees with the tools that they need so that they can do their work for us faster, more efficiently and more accurately. We are currently investigating municipal software packages that could automate the

tedious work of maintaining the property valuation records, tax payment records, and generate the tax bills.

Reopening Town Library:

Our Town Library, located on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall, has remained closed and dormant for several years now. Recently, Jean Kennard and Nicole Bell have expressed interest in reopening it, and have been busily painting and cleaning it up. They have prepared a questionnaire for a town-wide mailing to see if there is interest in reopening the Library, and if so, what hours should it be open, and what services should it offer. We enthusiastically support their effort, and look forward to learning the results of their survey.

Our Town is Growing:

This past year, two new subdivisions were created. The first has proceeded smoothly through the Town subdivision approval process, and its Subdivision Plat has been approved and recorded without incident.

The second subdivision has proceeded through this approval process with great contentiousness arising between the Town and the subdivider over road construction issues. In fact, this second subdivider had threatened the Town with a lawsuit, if these issues weren't resolved to his satisfaction. This made it necessary for the Town to incur the expense of engaging an attorney to provide legal counsel. We believe that all disputes have now been resolved, and that this second Subdivision Plat will soon be recorded without further incident, once the Town has been reimbursed for the filing fee and the cost of the outside engineer hired by the Town to oversee the construction of the road, as required.

Revisions to the Subdivision Regulations:

Our Subdivision Regulations, though comprehensive, needed to be revised to comply with current state requirements. Our Planning Board is in the process of reviewing our Subdivision Regulations with the goal of revising them to comply with these requirements, and to remove inconsistencies and improve clarity. We applaud this work, and feel that, as the Town continues to grow, it will become increasingly important to have good Subdivision Regulations that can successfully withstand legal challenges, in order to ensure that this growth is consistent with the Town's interests, as expressed in the Easton Master Plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Selectmen of Easton
Robert B. Craven, Chair
Robert W. Thibault
Keith Kidder

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE	Estimated 2002	Actual 2002	Estimated 2003
Taxes:			
3185 Timber Taxes	\$ 12,532.00	\$ 14,226.00	\$ 2,000.00
3186 Payment in Lieu of Taxes	14,842.00	15,614.00	8,000.00
3190 Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	4,000.00	3,705.00	3,000.00
3188 Excavation Activity Tax	0.00	343.00	0.00
Licenses, Permits, & Fees:			
3220 Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	36,000.00	47,938.00	38,000.00
3230 Building Permits	0.00	340.00	100.00
3290 Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	0.00	1,164.00	50.00
From State:			
3351 Shared Revenues	846.00	658.00	600.00
3352 Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution	7,402.00	8,058.00	5,000.00
3353 Highway Block Grant	6,878.00	6,878.00	7,336.00
Charges For Services:			
3401-3406 Income from Departments	0.00	760.00	100.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
3502 Interest on Investments	0.00	356.00	200.00
3503-3509 Other	0.00	472.00	50.00
Other Financing Sources:			
3934 Fund Balance (“Surplus”) to Reduce Taxes	<u>19,000.00</u>	<u>19,000.00</u>	<u>40,000.00</u>
Total Estimated Revenue & Credits	\$101,500.00	\$119,512.00	\$104,436.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Prior Year	Ensuing Year
Subtotal 1 Appropriations Recommended	\$137,089.00	\$125,099.00
Subtotal 2 Special Warrant Articles Recommended	0.00	11,000.00
Subtotal 3 “Individual” Warrant Articles Recommended	<u>0.00</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>
Total Appropriations Recommended	\$137,089.00	\$150,099.00
Less: Amount of Estimated Revenues & Credits	<u>101,500.00</u>	<u>104,436.00</u>
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised	\$ 35,589.00	\$ 45,663.00

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON – EXPENDITURES

PURPOSES OF APPROPRIATIONS	Estimated 2002	Actual 2002	Budgeted 2003
General Government:			
4130-4139 Executive	\$ 10,075.00	\$ 7,964.00	\$ 9,500.00
4140-4149 Election, Reg. & Vital Stats	3,400.00	3,272.00	3,450.00
4150-4151 Financial Administration	2,100.00	2,722.00	2,850.00
4152 Revaluation of Property	700.00	840.00	900.00
4153 Legal Expense	5,300.00	2,040.00	5,000.00
4155-4159 Personnel Administration	500.00	306.00	313.00
4191-4193 Planning & Zoning	800.00	3,437.00	5,000.00
4194 General Government Buildings	5,300.00	7,478.00	6,500.00
4195 Cemeteries	1,500.00	864.00	975.00
4196 Insurance	3,200.00	2,638.00	2,800.00
4197 Advertising & Regional Associations	1,251.00	1,251.00	1,690.00
4199 Other General Government	5,000.00	467.00	5,000.00
Public Safety:			
4210-4214 Police	4,200.00	4,446.00	6,000.00
4215-4219 Ambulance	1,500.00	0.00	1,800.00
4220-4229 Fire	13,900.00	13,026.00	13,000.00
4290-4298 Emergency Management	500.00	535.00	625.00
4299 Other (including communications)	1,800.00	2,243.00	1,000.00
Highways and Streets:			
4312 Highways & Streets	30,000.00	32,947.00	24,000.00
Sanitation:			
4324 Solid Waste Disposal	13,038.00	12,538.00	13,746.00
Health:			
4414 Pest Control	120.00	0.00	120.00
4415-4419 Health Agencies, Hosp. & Other	1,526.00	1,026.00	1,586.00
Welfare:			
4441-4442 Administration & Direct Assist.	1,500.00	575.00	1,000.00
4445-4449 Vendor Payments & Other	500.00	500.00	550.00
Culture and Recreation:			
4520-4529 Parks and Recreation	6,300.00	5,787.00	6,000.00
Conservation:			
4619 Other Conservation	200.00	25.00	100.00
Debt Service:			
4711 Principal Long Term Bonds & Notes	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
4721 Interest Long Term Bonds & Notes	5,629.00	5,629.00	5,344.00
4723 Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes	250.00	0.00	250.00
Operating Transfers Out:			
4915 To Capital Reserve Fund	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00
Total Appropriations	\$137,089.00	\$129,556.00	\$125,099.00

STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND TAXES ASSESSED FOR 2002

Total Town Appropriations Budgeted	\$137,089.00
Less: Town Revenues Budgeted	(101,509.00)
Less: Shared Revenue To Town	(313.00)
Add: Overlay	1,949.00
Add: War Service Credits	<u>750.00</u>
Net Town Appropriations	37,966.00
 - School Portion -	
Net Local School Budget	0.00
Regional School Apportionment	362,479.00
Less: Adequate Education Grant	.00
State Education Taxes	<u>(144,990.00)</u>
Approved School (s) Tax Effort	217,489.00
 State Education Taxes	
Equalized Valuation (no utilities) x \$5.80	163,982.00
28,272,782.00	
Divide by Local Assessed Valuation (no utilities) 26,527,617.00	
Excess State Education Taxes to be Remitted to State	18,992.00
 Total County Appropriation	
Less: Shared Revenue	<u>(156.00)</u>
Net County Appropriation	51,246.00
Total Property Tax Assessed	470,683.00
Less: War Service Credits	<u>(750.00)</u>
Total Property Tax Commitment	\$469,933.00

2002 Tax Rate

Town	\$ 1.40
County	1.89
School	8.03
State	<u>6.18</u>
	\$17.50/1000

2001 Tax Rate

Town	\$ 1.34
County	1.75
School	8.92
State	<u>6.76</u>
	\$18.77/1000

SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION

Land	\$11,608,142.00
Buildings	14,939,475.00
Less Elderly Exemption	<u>(20,000.00)</u>
Net Valuation Upon Which Tax Rate Is Computed	\$26,527,617.00
Electric Utilities	<u>569,758.00</u>
Total Valuation	\$27,097,375.00
Increase In Net Valuation Over 2001	\$ 548,638.00

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2002
Accrual Basis

ASSETS

Cash In Banks	\$229,860.94
Property Taxes Receivable - Current Year	24,977.40
Tax Liens Receivable	5,447.22
Reserve For Uncollectibles	<u>(3,110.50)</u>
Accrued Interest Receivable	880.00
Tax Deeded Property	<u>1,442.97</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$259,498.03</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Due To School Districts	\$134,127.00
Due To State of NH - Donor Town	18,992.00
Accounts Payable	295.00
Property Tax Overpayments To Be Refunded	<u>212.10</u>
Total Liabilities	\$153,626.10
Reserve For Conservation Fund	\$ 2,297.22
Reserve For Tax Deeded Property	<u>1,442.97</u>
Total Restricted Fund Balance	<u>\$ 3,740.19</u>
Fund Surplus-Unrestricted	<u>\$102,131.74</u>
Total Fund Equity	<u>105,871.93</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>\$259,498.03</u>

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Land at Town Hall & Fire House	\$ 29,450.00
Land - Other	22,400.00
Building - Town Hall	239,342.00
Building - Fire House	63,261.00
Furniture and Equipment - Town Hall	9,877.00
Furniture and Equipment - Fire House	43,500.00
Furniture and Equipment - Library	2,200.00
Furniture and Equipment - Police	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total Town Property	\$411,230.00

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the reports and accounts of the Town of Easton for the year ended December 31, 2002. My examination was made in accordance with the State of New Hampshire guidelines and generally accepted auditing standards applied on a consistent basis with that of the prior year.

In my opinion, these reports and accounts present fairly the financial position and operating revenues and expenditures of the Town of Easton for the year ended December 31, 2002.

Ralph Brigida, Auditor
February 4, 2003

TREASURER'S REPORT
for the Year Ending December 31, 2002

Bank Balance- January 1, 2002	\$217,804.60
Receipts:	
Tax Collector	\$523,441.01
Town Clerk - Motor Vehicle Fees	46,974.00
From Federal & State Government	15,593.58
Bank Interest	356.11
Other Sources	<u>7,386.98</u>
Total Receipts	\$593,751.68
Disbursements:	
Grafton County - County Taxes	\$ 51,402.00
School Districts	378,744.00
Selectmen's Ordered Paid	<u>153,846.56</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$583,992.56</u>
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2002	\$227,563.72

SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM INDEBTEDNESS
As of December 31, 2002

	<u>Town Building</u>		
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
Beginning Balance 1/01/02	\$120,000.00	\$58,425.00	\$178,425.00
Payments	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>5,629.00</u>	<u>11,629.00</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/02	\$114,000.00	\$52,796.00	\$166,796.00

DETAILED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS - 2002

1080-000	Tax Collector	\$488,157.98
1110-000	Tax Liens Receivable	510.75
2270-200	Yield Bond	1,870.50
3185-000	Yield Taxes	12,355.23
3186-000	Federal Government-Payment in Lieu of Taxes	15,614.00
3188-000	Excavation Activity Tax-Current Year	343.00
3190-000	Penalties & Interest	4,589.55
3220-000	Town Clerk - MVP Fees	47,733.00
3230-000	Building Permits	340.00
3290-000	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	1,163.50
3351-000	Shared Revenue - Block Grant, State of NH	657.50
3352-000	Rooms and Meals Tax	8,058.38
3353-000	Highway Block Grant-State of NH	6,877.70
3401-000	Income From All Departments	760.32
3502-000	Bank Interest	356.11
3504-000	Fines & Forfeits	9.00
3509-000	Miscellaneous Income	463.79
3915-000	Transfers from Capital Reserve	658.62
3934-000	Proceeds from Notes and Bonds	<u>3,232.75</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$593,751.68

DETAILED STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS - 2002

1110-200	Property Tax Liens	\$ 10,644.77
2022-200	Taxes Overpay	480.69
3110-100	Property Tax Abatements	789.50
4130-000	Executive	
4130-100	Salaries	\$ 1,600.00
4130-200	Fees	70.00
4130-300	Outside Services	935.00
4130-600	Office Expenses	<u>5,774.02</u> 8,379.02
4140-000	Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	
4140-100	Salaries	500.00
4140-200	Fees	1,720.00
4140-500	Elections/Voter Registration	767.24
4140-600	Office Expenses	<u>421.32</u> 3,408.56
4150-000	Financial Administration	
4150-100	Salaries	1,400.00
4150-200	Fees	242.37
4150-600	Office Expenses	<u>965.06</u> 2,607.43
4152-000	Revaluation of Individual Properties	840.00

4153-000	Legal Expenses	2,040.00
4155-000	Payroll Taxes	306.01
4191-000	Planning & Zoning	3,404.09
4194-000	Government Buildings	
4194-400	Utilities	3,539.44
4194-800	Repairs, Maintenance & Supplies	3,221.02
4194-900	Mowing & Gardening	<u>845.56</u>
		7,606.02
4195-000	Cemetery	
4195-600	Office Expenses/Memorial Day	43.78
4195-900	Mowing & Maintenance	<u>820.00</u>
		863.78
4196-000	Insurance	
4196-100	Property Insurance	2,142.79
4196-200	Worker's Comp.	<u>495.49</u>
		2,638.28
4197-000	Advertising & Regional Associations	1,250.79
4210-000	Police Department	
4210-100	Police Chief Labor	3,185.00
4210-600	Services & Expenses	<u>1,261.15</u>
		4,446.15
4220-000	Fire Department	
4220-100	Salaries	500.00
4220-110	Firefighters Call Pay (Article 5)	926.25
4220-200	Training & Dues	1,041.02
4220-400	Utilities	1,490.50
4220-600	Office & Miscellaneous	1,282.90
4220-630	Truck Inspection, Maintenance, Repair	463.34
4220-635	Truck Fuel	196.12
4220-700	Equipment & Small Tools	6,835.07
4220-800	Building Maintenance & Supplies	<u>391.69</u>
		13,126.88
4290-000	Emergency Management-Forest Fire	
4290-100	Labor	518.86
4290-600	Office Expenses, Miscellaneous	<u>16.46</u>
		535.32
4299-000	Dispatch Service	2,243.00
4312-000	Highway Maintenance	37,140.63
4324-000	Solid Waste	12,538.00
4415-000	Health Agencies & Hospitals	816.00
4419-000	Other Health, Hospice	210.00
4442-000	Welfare	575.00
4449-000	Other Welfare-Tri County CAP	500.00
4520-000	Tri-Town Recreation Programs	5,787.00
4612-000	Conservation Commission	25.00
4711-000	Construction Bond - Principal	6,000.00

4721-000	Construction Bond – Interest	5,629.00
4902-000	Office Equipment	3,216.64
4915-000	Transfers to Capitol Reserve	11,000.00
4931-000	County Taxes	51,402.00
4933-000	Schools	
4933-100	Lafayette Regional School District	175,252.00
4933-200	Profile School District	<u>203,492.00</u>
4939-000	Excess Property Tax-Education	2,893.00
4903-000	Town Building - Capitol Outlay	<u>1,906.00</u>
Total Disbursements		\$583,992.56

TAX COLLECTOR – SUMMARY OF WARRANTS
Levies of 2002 and Prior

DEBITS

		Levies of:	
		2002	2001
			Prior
Uncollected Taxes Beginning of Year:			
Property Taxes	#3110		\$33,238.41
Excavation Tax @\$.02/yd.	#3187		686.00
Taxes Committed This Year:			
Property Taxes	#3110	\$468,968.70	
Yield Taxes	#3185	14,225.73	
Excavation Tax @\$.02/yd	#3187	343.00	
Overpayment:			
Property Taxes	#3110	650.13	1,338.82
Yield Taxes	#3185	560.87	
Costs			405.50
Interest - Late Tax	#3190	<u>598.11</u>	<u>1,623.41</u>
Total Debits		\$485,346.54	\$37,292.14

CREDITS

Remitted To Treasurer:			
Property Taxes		\$437,572.60	\$25,015.63
Yield Taxes		14,786.60	
Interest (include lien conversion)		598.11	1,855.51
Penalties			441.00
Excavation Tax @\$.02/yd		343.00	686.00
Utility Charges		5,288.70	
Conversion to Lien (principal only)			9,294.00
Overpayments		650.13	
Discounts Allowed Abatements Made:			
Applied Overpayments		1,130.00	
Uncollected Taxes-End Of Year: #1080			
Property Taxes		<u>24,977.40</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credits		\$485,346.54	\$37,292.14

SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS

DEBITS

	2001	2000
Tax Liens Executed to Town		
Unredeemed Liens Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ 0.00	\$7,033.67
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year	10,530.61	0.00
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)	<u>112.82</u>	<u>964.54</u>
Total Debits	\$10,643.43	\$7,998.21

CREDITS

Remitted To Treasurer:

Redemptions	\$ 4,107.68	\$6,670.56
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190	112.82	964.54
Overpayments	1,338.82	0.00
Unredeemed Liens Balance End of Year #1110	<u>5,084.11</u>	<u>363.11</u>
Total Credits	\$10,643.43	\$7,998.21

2002 TAXES DUE
As of December 31, 2002

*Bannister, William	\$ 129.00
*Bernardi, Lise	978.00
Bontempi, Robert & Patricia	629.00
Canelas, Brian & Jacqueline.....	4,075.00
Casey, Charles & Barbara	216.00
Chartier, Nella	188.00
Cole, Bruce & Lucille.....	1,392.00
Federico, Frank.....	606.00
Fifield, David & Melanie.....	217.00
Floyd, Gregory & Michelle	1,510.00
*Hansen, Mark & Linda	265.00
Hunt, James	2,143.00
*Kenney, David & Michele	548.00
*Lavallee, David G.	1,810.94
Lazzaro, John & Cathy	690.00
*Leist, Daniel & Teresina.....	1,952.00
*Moody, Fred & Betty	1,546.00
O'Brien, Kevin & Patricia	1,235.46
Page, Jacqueline.....	341.00
Pastoriza, Kristina.....	486.00
Peckett, Grayden.....	2,522.00
Shepard, David & Alice.....	1,253.00
*Varieur, Karen & Wilfred.....	8.00
*Worthen, Samuel H.	<u>237.00</u>
	<u>\$24,977.40</u>

*denotes taxes paid after due date

2000 TAX LIEN DUE
as of December 31, 2002

Casey, Charles	\$ 189.82
Chartier, Nella	<u>173.29</u>
	\$363.11

2001 TAX LIEN DUE
as of December 31, 2002

Casey, Charles	\$ 293.82
Chartier, Nella	260.46
Floyd, Gregory and Michelle.....	1,839.56
*Lavallee, David.....	1,432.01
*Peckett, Grayden.....	<u>1,258.26</u>
	<u>\$5,084.11</u>

TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2002

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, in the county of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 12, 2002. Polls will be open from 3:00 to 6:00 PM for ballot voting on Articles 1 through 3. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

S. North moved to dispense with reading the whole warrant. A.R. Sandler seconded the motion.

To act upon the following subjects:

Article 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year (ballot vote).

Vote for One

Selectman	Robert Thibault	41
Town Clerk	Barbara Collier	41
Treasurer	Terri Rainville	40
Tax Collector	Barbara Collier	41
Auditor	Ralph Brigida	
Moderator	Jim Collier	41
Supervisor of the Checklist	Amy Kelley	10
	Trish O'Brien	1
	Angela Brigida	1
	Pat Every	1
Cemetery Trustee	Pat Every	2 - Declined
	Kevin O'Brien	1 - Declined
	Bob Hackett	1 - Declined
	Terri Rainville	1 - Declined
	Greg Sorg	1 - Accepted

Vote for Two

Planning Board	Jim Collier	41
	Kevin O'Brien	36

Article 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment to the Easton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, as follows: Article 6, FUTURE USES Section 605B, 1.

Delete the words: "on the U.S. Geological Survey, entitled 'Availability of Groundwater in the Middle Connecticut River Basin, North-Central', by John E. Cotton, 1977."

and in their place write "Stratified-Drift Aquifers in the Middle Connecticut River Basin, West central New Hampshire, Plate 7, of the U.S.G.S. Water Investigations Report

94-4181".

This amendment simply updates the ordinance. The 1977 maps have been replaced by those completed in 1994. The aquifer boundaries are unchanged. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article.)

Article 3. Are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment to the Easton Subdivision Regulations proposed by the Planning Board, as follows: Section 6.B. Compliance with Regulations

Designate the first paragraph “Penalties as ‘1’ and add a new ‘2’ ” to read: “2. Disclosure. When lots in a subdivision are subject to conditions affecting the Town, for example road maintenance agreements, the terms of the conditions or agreement shall be written into the deed for each lot.”

This provision makes certain that lot owners are aware of conditions imposed on the developer by the Town as a condition of subdivision approval. It protects both the lot owners and the Town. (The Planning Board recommends adoption of this Article.)

Article 4. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$117,989.00 for general Town operations as follows:

4130 – Executive	\$ 10,075.00
4140 – Election, Registration & Vital Stats	3,400.00
4150 – Financial Administration	2,100.00
4152 – Revaluation of Property	700.00
4153 – Legal Expense	5,000.00
4155 – Personnel Administration	500.00
4191 – Planning & Zoning	800.00
4194 – General Government Buildings	5,300.00
4195 – Cemeteries	1,500.00
4196 – Insurance	3,200.00
4197 – Advertising & Reg. Associations	1,251.00
4199 – Contingency Fund	5,000.00
4210 – Police Department	4,200.00
4215 – Ambulances	1,500.00
4220 – Fire Department	12,100.00
4290 – Forest Fire Fighting & Training	500.00
4299 – Communications	1,800.00
4312 – Highways	24,000.00
4323 – Hazardous Waste Collection	0.00
4324 – Solid Waste Collection	13,038.00
4414 – Animal Control	120.00
4415 – Health Agencies	1,316.00
4419 – Hospice	210.00
4442 – Welfare - General Assistance	1,500.00
4449 – Tri-County Community Action	500.00
4520 – Recreation Programs	6,300.00

4612 – Conservation Commission	200.00
4711 – Principal Payment on \$120,000 Bond	6,000.00
4721 – Interest on \$120,000 Bond	5,629.00
4723 – Interest on TAN Note	<u>250.00</u>
	\$117,989.00

Bob Thibault moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$117,989.00 for general Town operations. Terri Rainville seconded the motion. All were in favor when told that the surplus would be used to reduce taxes.

Article 5. Fire Department Call Pay

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,800.00 to pay non-salaried members of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department for time spent fighting fires. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

The motion was made by Bob Craven and seconded by Art Rainville. After a few questions were answered the Article passed.

Article 6. Capital Reserve Fund for Town Revaluation.

To see if the Town will authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA Chapter 35 for the state-mandated Town property revaluation, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 towards this purpose, and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

The motion was made by Bob Thibault and seconded by Keith Kidder. After much discussion, the Article passed.

Article 7. To Continue Town Membership in the Coalition Communities

To see if the Town will vote to continue its membership in The Coalition Communities, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 as its contribution toward the legal expenses of said Coalition.

A motion was made by Bob Craven and seconded by Bob Thibault. Bob Craven spoke to the group as to why the Selectmen had decided to join the group. The Article passed.

Article 8. Easton Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund for equipment acquisition and replacement for the Easton Fire Department. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

A motion was made by Keith Kidder and seconded by Art Rainville. The Article passed.

Article 9. Conversion of Town Tax Maps to Digital Format and GIS Database

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 to convert the Town tax maps to digital format and Global Information System (GIS), and to acquire the appropriate database use software. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

Bob Thibault moved to pass over this Article and Bob Craven seconded the motion.
The reason was that changes had been made to the presentation after the budget hearings.
All were in favor to pass over the Article.

Article 10. Resurfacing/Repairing and Tree Trimming of Town Roads

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to continue the program of resurfacing and repairing Town roads. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

A motion was made by Keith Kidder and seconded by Bob Thibault. The Article passed.

Article 11. Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District

To see if the Town will vote to join the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District, and to authorize the Town of Franconia to appoint the Tri-Town (Easton, Franconia, and Sugar Hill) Member to said District Board. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

A motion was made by Bob Craven. "Mr. Moderator, I move that the Town join the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint the Town's member to said District Board. This wording is slightly different from that shown for Article 11, since we've recently learned that each of the three towns may have its own member on the District Board, rather than having just one member to represent the three towns."

Keith Kidder seconded the motion. After some discussion, the Article passed.

Article 12. Land Use Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 79-A:25-a to account for all revenues received from the Land Use Change Tax in a Land Use Reserve Fund separate from the General Fund. Any surplus remaining in said fund shall not be part of the General Fund until such time as the Town votes to appropriate a specific amount from it for any purpose not prohibited by the laws or by the constitution of this state. (The Planning Board and the Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

The motion was made by Keith Kidder and seconded by Anita Craven. Anita spoke to the group as to why the Planning Board recommended this Article. There was much discussion on this Article. The Article passed.

Article 13. To act upon any other business that may legally come before this Meeting.

Greg Sorg was recognized for all his work that he has done for the Town. Pat Every, Karl Hunninghaus, and Terri Rainville were also recognized for their work on various boards.

Jean Kennard then spoke about opening up the Library again. She asked for volunteers to help set up the Library again.

Joe Pimental was recognized for all the work he has done on the new Town Hall Office addition.

A motion was made to adjourn by Bob Thibault and seconded by Keith Kidder. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara J. Collier, Town Clerk of Easton

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
For the Year Ending December 31, 2002
(Cash Basis)

Motor Vehicle Registrations	\$47,806.00
Titles	132.00
Dog Registrations	350.00
Penalties	18.00
Municipal Agent Fees	791.50
Certified Copies	8.00
Marriage License	38.00
Marriage License Fee	7.00
Miscellaneous	12.50
Certified Copy Fee	<u>4.00</u>
 Total Transferred to Town	 \$49,167.00
 Less Statutory Fees Paid to Clerk	
Motor Vehicles	(554.00)
Titles	(132.00)
Dogs	(59.00)
Municipal Agent Fees	(791.50)
Certified Copy Fee	(4.00)
Marriage Fee	<u>(7.00)</u>
	<u>(1,547.50)</u>
 Net Income for Town	 \$47,619.50
 Town Clerk's Pay	 \$ 500.00
Town Clerk's Fees, as above	 1,547.50
	<u>2,047.50</u>

Respectfully submitted,
 Barbara J. Collier
 Town Clerk

Office Hours

Monday Morning
 10 AM - 12 Noon

Thursday Afternoon
 4 PM - 6 PM

**BIRTHS REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2002**

Date & Place Of Birth	Name Of Child	Name Of Father & Mother's Name
June 05, 2002 Easton, NH	Iris Olympia A. Miller-White	Paul White Kyla Miller
July 28, 2002 Littleton, NH	Caroline Joan Greene	Christopher Greene Mary Jo Greene

**MARRIAGES REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2002**

Date & Place Of Marriage	Name and Surname Of Groom & Bride	Residence of Each At Time Of Marriage
August 3, 2002 Easton, NH	Richard A. Johnson Margaret K. O'Connell	Easton, NH Easton, NH
September 21, 2002 Easton, NH	David Goodwin Elizabeth Demaree	Easton, NH Easton, NH

**DEATHS REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
For the Year Ending December 31, 2002**

Date & Place Of Death	Name & Surname Of Deceased
February 23, 2002 Rochester, NH	Edna L. Boisvert
September 17, 2002 Easton, NH	Cecil A. Young

EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2002 has been another year with many calls for the Easton Fire Department. Our value has been proven time and time again with our quick response and preparedness to fight fire for both the Town of Easton and any of the surrounding towns where Easton Fire Department provides Mutual Aid.

Easton Fire Department responded to 17 Calls in 2002 and are broken down as follows:

Power Lines Down	1	Woodland Fires	1
Fire Alarm Activations	3	Chimney Fires	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6		
Motor Vehicle Fires	1		
Structure Fires	4	Broken down as:	Sugar Hill Mutual Aid (2) Franconia Mutual Aid (1) Woodstock Mutual Aid (1)

Easton Firefighters fought structure fires in the Towns of Franconia, Sugar Hill, and Woodstock this year. Easton Firefighters were among the first firefighters on the scene of the fires. This arena provided excellent training for all the firefighters present and showed the tremendous dedication that every firefighter from Easton has in doing the most professional job possible. This arena also showed how valuable it is to train with other Towns during non-critical times so that operations will run smoothly and efficiently when fighting actual fires. The Easton Fire Department was an active participant in three (3) Tri-Town Drills during 2002.

Fire Prevention Week was conducted at the Children's Center again this year in October. A greater understanding of fire and how to prevent fire was bestowed upon the youngsters. Each year, the children enjoy the presentation that the Easton Firefighters put on. This is a valuable asset to the community and the safety of our children.

We, the Easton Firefighters, would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every resident for his or her support this past year and in past years. 2002 was a good year, and we look forward to 2003 and stand ready to provide the best possible Firefighting service to our community. We will be there when you need us, and we will answer the alarm with continued fervor and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,
The Easton Firefighters
Charles Casey, Chief

COMMUNITY FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER REPORT

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands cooperate and coordinate to reduce the risk of wildland fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required before doing ALL outside burning. Fire permits are mandatory for all outside burning unless the ground where the burning is to be done (and surrounding areas) is completely covered with snow. Violations of RSA 227-L:17, the fire permit law and other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines up to \$2,000 and/or a year in jail, plus suppression costs.

A new law effective January 1, 2003 prohibits residential trash burning (RSA 125-N). Contact New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at (800) 498-6868 or www.des.state.nh.us for more information.

Help us to protect you and our forest resources. Most New Hampshire wildfires are human caused. Homeowners can help protect their homes by maintaining adequate green space around the house and make sure that the house number is correct and visible. Contact your Fire Department or the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands at www.nhdfi.org or 271-2217 for wildland fire safety information.

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRES

2002 FIRE STATISTICS

(All Fires Reported thru November 10, 2002)

<u>TOTALS BY COUNTY</u>		<u>CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED</u>	
	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Acres</u>	
Belknap	52	13.5	Arson/Suspicious 43
Carroll	80	10.5	Campfire 31
Cheshire	39	17	Children 32
Coos	3	2.5	Smoking 32
Grafton	53	21	Rekindle of Permit 3
Hillsborough	108	54.5	Illegal 7
Merrimack	94	13.5	Lightning 36
Rockingham	60	25.5	*Miscellaneous 356
Strafford	31	23	
Sullivan	20	6	

(Miscellaneous: powerlines, fireworks, railroad, ashes, debris, structures, equipment, etc.)

Total Fires Total Acres

	<u>Total Fires</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
2002	540	187
2001	942	428
2000	516	149

REPORT OF THE TRUST FUNDS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2002

		PRINCIPAL			INCOME			Principal & Interest	
Balance 01/01/02	Added Funds or Reinvested	Expended Funds	Balance 12/31/02	Income 01/01/02	Expended 12/31/02	Balance 01/01/02	Income 12/31/02	Balance 12/31/02	End of Year
Trust Funds									
Cemetery:									
CT River Bank	\$8,260.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,260.25	\$2,194.88	\$399.25	\$0.00	\$2,594.13	\$10,854.38
Library Memorial Fund	550.00	0.00	0.00	550.00	345.85	30.15	0.00	376.00	926.00
CT River Bank									
Total Trust Funds	\$8,810.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,810.25	\$2,540.73	\$429.40	\$0.00	\$2,970.13	\$11,780.38
Capital Reserve Funds									
Fire Dept. Equipment									
Woodsville Guaranty	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$557.54	\$133.14	\$0.00	\$690.68	\$ 5,690.68
Town Offices	9,402.88	0.00	(658.62)	8,744.26	0.00	84.94	0.00	84.94	8,829.20
CT River Bank									
Town Reassessment	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	191.47	0.00	191.47	10,191.47
Bank									
Total Reserve Funds	\$13,402.88	\$11,000.00	(\$658.62)	\$23,744.26	\$557.54	\$409.55	\$0.00	\$967.09	\$24,711.35

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Year Ending December 31, 2002

Balance in Savings Account – January 1, 2002	\$2,275.21
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RECEIPTS

Interest from Bank – 01/01/02 – 12/31/02	<u>\$20.54</u>	<u>20.54</u>
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Balance in Savings Account – December 31, 2002	\$2,295.75
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POLICE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

As I sat down to write this I was thinking it was a quiet year but in going over the logs I realized it wasn't as quiet as I thought; much of what happened had faded from my mind's eye. There were approximately 35 calls for service, consisting of accidents, the towing and removal of an abandoned car, responding to a fire alarm, locating an individual, service to the elderly, trees in the roadway, checking welfare, stray dogs, recovering lost property, answering requests for service from other agencies, and listening to citizen concerns.

Until the end of the year there were fewer accidents than usual but with winter coming suddenly we've had five recent accidents including 3 within the same hour during the first storm.

Unlike last year when the majority of accidents could be traced to newly licensed drivers, the majority this year were weather related and involved experienced drivers. Please remember when the weather is cold you can hit ice and wind up on your side, roof, or leave the roadway and strike a tree before you can recover. All accidents involved individual cars leaving the roadway and the vehicles were all driven by experienced drivers. Seat belts prevented severe injury in several of them, especially the car on its roof and the one on its side. Remember to buckle up as I don't want to go to someone's house to tell them a family member has been seriously injured.

For the first time in many years there were no noise complaints due to large outside parties; the new policy of issuing court summons to the hosts (including citing them for supplying alcohol to minors) seems to be producing results.

During the year one case went to court and there were two arrests involving the Department.

The court case involved someone who stole items from people with whom he had been staying. He pled guilty at trial and made restitution and is currently in jail in another jurisdiction.

One arrest was the result of responding to an initial report of a disabled motor vehicle on Route 116. As I was going out the door dispatch called back and said it was a stolen car and the man was a suspect in a burglary in Massachusetts. The car left the scene before I arrived but I caught up with him in Bethlehem, removed him from the vehicle and handcuffed him. When the State Police and Bethlehem PD arrived he was transferred to their custody.

The second arrest was the result of an OHRV complaint for which I requested State Police backup. While at the scene with Trooper Koehler, an extremely sharp individual, he found the driver of a car at the scene was operating with a suspended license and placed him under arrest.

At the end of last year I completed a course at the Fire Academy (in conjunction with Police Standards and Training) as a first responder to incidents of terrorism. This year's courses included training with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's local team, as well as training in terrorism recognition under the auspices of the FBI.

Each day I study Federal and State terrorism bulletin e-mails to the Department and mark down in a notebook descriptions and items to watch for. As I sat down to watch the news tonight (New Year's Eve), the Port of New York had just been shut to all small craft; authorities were looking for five subjects who were thought to have illegally crossed the border into the U.S. from Canada. Keeping to the back roads they could easily pass this area on the way to the City.

In light of that, please watch for suspicious activity. While Easton isn't high on any list that doesn't mean terrorists couldn't pass through the area or seek hiding in the sparsely populated region around us. If you see something that doesn't seem right – call me; I know who to contact. During the past year Easton again experienced no burglaries; surrounding towns were not so fortunate. In a large measure much of the credit for this goes to your keeping your eyes open. In the same measure, keep your eyes open in regard to terrorism – we live in a different world.

Lastly, thanks for the trust you've placed in me and remember your watchfulness does make a difference.

Respectfully,

Robert Every

PLANNING BOARD

For the first time in several years the Board received applications for subdivisions involving 430 acres. We approved a Minor Lot Line Adjustment between Joe Grasso and Brenda and Bill Adam that enlarges the back of the Adam property, but does not create additional building lots. We approved a Major Subdivision for John and Maggie Tatone. They have subdivided their 180 acres into five building lots, at the end of Sugar Bush Lane in the Pepper Brook subdivision. A Minor Subdivision is conditionally approved for Mr. and Mrs. David Peisner, who are subdividing into three building lots their approximately 30 acres formerly owned by the Presbys off the Easton Valley Road. The subdivision road they constructed, which will be called River Run, does not extend across the Ham Branch. The Kenney's also applied for a Lot Line Adjustment and a Minor Subdivision. Details of this subdivision are pending. The purpose of this subdivision is to establish individual ownership of the various parcels in the Tamarack complex. We also resolved an outstanding issue by approving after the fact a Minor Lot Line Adjustment involving an unapproved minor subdivision of back land by Mr. Cook off of Tunnel Brook Road.

The approval process revealed that it is not easy to apply the Subdivision Regulations when special modifications are requested. The Town sought legal counsel to resolve differences over the design of the Peisner road. The Board is thoroughly examining the Regulations for clarity, particularly regarding the sequence of events and the division of authority between the Planning Board and the Selectmen. There was lively debate over questions such as to the extent that private roads can vary from state road specifications, when is modification reasonable, what is the Town's responsibility regarding subdivision roads to future owners in a subdivision. The Board will hold a public hearing on all proposed changes, and will then have the document reviewed by a legal counsel, as the regulations require.

The Chair attended the annual Municipal Law Lecture Series on land use issues. At each of these three lectures an excellent handbook was distributed providing updates for the Board on current state laws and practices.

Planning Board meetings were not dull in 2002. If any Easton resident would like to be a member of the Board, or an alternate, please speak to the Town Clerk, a Selectman, or a Board Member. The Board meets the first Wednesday of each month. Easton is growing, whether we like it or not. The Town needs your participation in overseeing subdivisions so that they are in agreement with the Town's Master Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Craven, Chair

Jim Collier

Keith Kidder

ex officio for the Selectmen

Andrew Noyes

Kevin O'Brien

FRANCONIA LIFE SQUAD

This year's report of the Franconia Life Squad (FLS) is written with both sadness and relief. The sadness comes from having to step down from the squad after some 30 years, due to health reasons. The relief comes from knowing the squad has been left in qualified hands. The new Chief will be Dean Wright and his Assistant Chief will be Robert Anthony. They take charge of a record number of members, that number being 15.

We used all of our donated funds from Sugar Hill and those of Franconia to outfit these new members with the latest of equipment including radios and pagers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members for their support of myself and the squad over the years. I would also like to applaud their undying volunteerism to the communities they serve. We are all very fortunate to have them.

I would also like to thank the towns of Franconia, Sugar Hill, and Easton for their continued support of our efforts to serve you.

Following this report, you will find a breakdown of our activity by town and type of response.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel N. Peabody, Chief (Retired)

Emergency Description	Total	Fran.	S. Hill	Easton	Other
Motor Vehicle Accidents	53	43	5	5	0
Medical Emergencies	19	13	2	4	0
Trauma Emergencies	16	9	7	0	0
Bicycle Accidents-Trauma	5	4	0	1	0
Misc. Health Problems/Assists	4	3	1	0	0
Cardiac/Stroke Emergencies	17	11	2	4	0
Respiratory Emergencies	12	9	2	1	0
Alcohol/Drug Emergencies	2	1	1	0	0
Working CODE-Med. Trauma	1	1	0	0	0
Deaths	2	2	0	0	0
Mt. Rescue/ Medical Trauma	9	9	0	0	0
MV Accidents/Moose & Deer	9	9	0	0	0
Seizures—Pediatric & Adult	4	4	0	0	0
Minor Medical Emergencies	2	1	1	0	0
Minor Trauma Emergencies	5	3	1	1	0
Fire Department Assists	23	21	2	0	0
Psychiatric/Behavior/A.M.S.	4	4	0	0	0
Life Line Activation Call	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL RUNS	189	147	26	16	0

Patient Statistics:

# Pediatric/Adolescents	27	26	0	1	0
# Adults	<u>152</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL PATIENTS	179	136	26	17	0
Patients Transported to Littleton Regional Hospital					
By FLS:	10*	8	1	1	0

*5% of Medical Patients

TRI-TOWN TRANSFER STATION

The staff of the Tri-Town Transfer Station would like to thank you, our customers, for another successful year. During 2002 the paper recycling markets experienced a nice upward trend. For example, the market value of corrugated cardboard went from \$30 per ton in March to a peak of \$125 per ton in mid-July. As a result, recycling revenues jumped from \$9,158 in 2001 to \$17,617 in 2002. Had we not recycled these materials, they would have cost \$27,133 to landfill, making the total value of our recycling program \$44,750. The amount of materials recycled rose to 403 tons, giving us a recycling rate of 44%.

We recycled:

- 228 tons of paper products;
- 15 tons of plastic;
- 2 tons of aluminum cans;
- 12 tons of steel cans;
- 36 tons of scrap metal; and
- 110 tons of glass.

We sent 520 tons of green bag material (trash to be landfilled) to the Bethlehem Landfill at a cost of \$38,521. Due to the increased property tax assessment of the Bethlehem Landfill, our disposal vendor, North Country Environmental Services, increased disposal fees by \$2.56 per ton. The 2003 budget absorbs this increase for green bag material – there will not be any increase in green bag prices – but we will be raising disposal rates for construction and demolition debris.

After the affirmative votes at last year's town meetings, Franconia, Sugar Hill, and Easton all became members of the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District. Our Pemi-Baker dues paid for the fall Household Hazardous Waste collection in Littleton, an electronics recycling collection, and the recycling of the fluorescent bulbs, paint, and rechargeable batteries collected at the Transfer Station. Pemi-Baker will be sponsoring another electronics recycling day on April 26, 2003. The 2003 Littleton Household Hazardous Waste collection will be held on June 21. Both events will be held at the Littleton Fire Station. Please contact us at the Transfer Station for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Marshall, Transfer Station Manager

**TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING CENTER
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

Beginning Balance	\$ 36,471.54
Income	
Town of Franconia	\$41,539.00
Town of Sugar Hill	23,846.00
Town of Easton	11,538.00
Interest Earned	596.60
PAYT Fees	72,092.00
Special Handling Fees	15,477.40
Recycled Material	<u>17,616.57</u>
	182,705.57
Expenses	
Solid Waste Disposal	
MSW Hauling	5,085.87
MSW Tipping	34,495.25
Bulky Disposal	
Roll Off Hauling	4,096.33
Roll Off Tipping	13,129.15
Utilities	2,037.39
General Expenses	
Dues	1,857.30
PAYT Bags	8,156.50
Insurance	54.00
Supplies & Baling Wire	1,427.04
Oil & Gas	411.92
Training & Certification	407.32
Uniforms	482.18
Equipment Maintenance	2,091.35
Wages	80,486.05
Benefits	
Health Insurance	17,922.87
Retirement	1,248.00
Workers' Compensation	3,629.96
Payroll Taxes	<u>6,157.18</u>
	<u>183,175.66</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 36,001.45

RECREATION PROGRAM

The Tri-Town Recreation Program has had an incredibly busy year. A huge thank you to the numerous volunteer coaches, referees, umpires, and parent helpers who have made our several programs such a success on and off the field.

Our youth baseball teams were successful with our first White Mountain League **Home Run Derby**, our only fundraising event. Money raised helped all teams in the league with uniforms, equipment and sending teams to play in championship games and on all-star teams. Thank you to the coaches, umpires and players for giving 110% all season long.

Our Summer Recreation Program was again based out of our own Lafayette Regional School which provided us with a cool shady place to be when the temperatures went soaring. Field trips to Santa's Village, Surf Coaster, Canobie Lake Park and the Great Vermont Corn Maze kept everyone busy this summer. One and all looked forward to swim lessons with Jean Serino at the Hillwinds to cool off and play. The Adventure Program this summer took many participants on three camping trips to Maine, southern NH, and of course, to Six Flags Theme Park in Agawam, MA. They adventured to local waterfalls, hiking trails and bike paths, not to mention just having a lot of fun getting there. We were also able to use the rock climbing wall at the White Mountain School, where instructors Kim Cowles and Gordy Johnk taught our 6th to 8th grade Adventure participants some of the finer points of rock climbing.

Our soccer teams brought almost 80% of the Lafayette School population to the field. With the help of Principal and Recreation Committee member Gordy Johnk and David Carbonneau, we were able to have a field at the school for our 2nd and 3rd grade soccer team. Mike Kenney and coach Brad Williams held a workshop prior to the soccer season to teach some energetic parents about soccer and soccer skills. Thank you to Jimbo and Cory Snyder for building our new benches and for seeding and fertilizing the Dow Field. Thank you to the White Mountain School who purchased the seed and fertilizer and to the Profile School who donated the use of the equipment. Congratulations to all of our soccer teams on a great season!

In November, Jean Serino continued swim lessons with a stroke development class for 4th through 6th grade deep water swimmers at the Franconia Village Hotel. In the spring, we hope to offer some initial swim lessons to students in grades 1 to 3. Watch for notices!

This winter our icemaking will be at the hands of Jeff Phillips through the Town of Franconia. Hours will be posted outside the rink. We hope to have a longer skating season than last winter. All season the rink was used by children. Now with basketball hoops up, the rink is accessible to anyone interested. Skateboarders and skaters had ramps and jumps in place to create an all-season rink.

The Recreation Committee meets the first Thursday of each month at the Franconia Village House at 6:00pm. We welcome the public to attend. We look forward to another exciting year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Germain, Recreation Director and
The Tri-Town Recreation Committee

NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2002

It has been another busy year at North Country Council. We continued to complete a number of local and regional projects for all of our 51 communities throughout the region. Summaries of some of the major projects are as follows:

Transportation:

- Completed with the NHDOT and member communities the regional bike path map.
- Completed the Route 2 Corridor Study and continue to participate in the Route 2 working group.
- Provided technical transportation assistance to the majority of the communities in our region.
- Coordinated the North Country Transportation Committee.
- Conducted 138 traffic counts in 38 communities.

Economic Development:

- Submitted two EDA economic development applications. (The MWVEC Technology Village and the Dartmouth Incubator).
- Coordinated the North Country District Economic Development Committee.
- Updated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region.
- Finish Phase I of the Industrial Park Marketing Program.

Community/Regional Planning:

- Provided technical assistance to 28 towns throughout the region.
- Participated in the update of 12 master plans and zoning ordinances for member communities.
- Coordinated the Law Lecture Series for the Office of State Planning.

Environmental Planning:

- Provided technical assistance to over 38 communities in the area of solid waste and hazardous waste management.
- Coordinated the Household Hazardous Waste collections for 32 communities.
- Conducted solid waste and transfer station evaluations for three community transfer stations.
- Began a pilot fluorescent light collection program.
- Managed a source water protection program for the Department of Environmental Services, which developed methods to help in the prevention of surface intake contamination.
- Provided technical assistance in the National Flood Insurance Program throughout the region.

Many of these programs will continue into the year 2003. We continue to enhance our staff capacity and will be looking to provide additional technical assistance and planning support to all our communities. We presently have nine staff people focusing on providing technical assistance in Transportation, Community Planning, Economic Development and Environmental Planning. Major programs for the year 2003 will be

completion of our five year update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), the development of a Regional Plan (transportation, natural resources, economic development, community planning) and the continued assistance of solid waste management with an emphasis on conducting town evaluations on their solid waste management practices.

Our overall goal, however, remains the same: to provide support and leadership to the region, its governments, businesses and citizens.

Sincerely,
Michael J. King, Executive Director

WHITE MOUNTAIN MENTAL HEALTH and DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES Director's Report

The past year has been one of unprecedented demand on the mental health system, both locally and nationally. It does not require any special training in behavioral health to recognize the increased incidence of anxiety, depression and substance abuse in our communities. Most people reading this report will be easily able to identify the impact of these issues on their own lives. These symptoms often go untreated and lead to marital problems, impaired job performance, emotional and physical abuse of children and even suicide. This is a time of pervasive concern about the stability of the world, personal economic and job stability and the general safety of our environment. Children, especially, are often unable to understand and manage these feelings, and are therefore especially vulnerable.

With this as a backdrop, it is distressing to report to you that White Mountain Mental Health and Developmental Services is less able to meet the demands of the average person in our community than we were at this time last year. Shrinking reimbursements and increasing costs have meant that we are having increased difficulty in recruiting, retaining and adequately compensating staff to provide needed services. We struggle daily with many more referrals for care than we can manage. It is ironic that mental health services are not seen as a priority by society, in spite of the escalation of personal and societal distress. This is clearly an era of crisis for our system of care.

There *is* some good news! We continue to work very hard to maintain *quality*, and we are succeeding. Our mental health staff is highly trained, well respected and extremely dedicated. We continue to prioritize services to children, and our efforts as lead agency for the CARE-NH federal grant has meant that children continue to come home from costly out-of-district placements to live with their families. We can also be proud of the fact that people who receive our services report overwhelmingly that our intervention in their lives made a positive difference. Our Agency placed first in the State in "key performance indicators" of effective mental health treatment. Our developmental service program, *Common Ground*, has become a model for the State and has developed a national reputation for innovative and effective supports to persons with developmental disabilities. *Common Ground* was recently awarded a nationally competitive grant from the University of Montana to implement self directed business and career development for individuals with severe and multiple disabilities. There is much to celebrate, even in this difficult time.

This year is a particularly appropriate time to thank you, our neighbors, for your support over the past thirty years. Contributions from the communities we serve are absolutely essential in allowing us to provide the support and treatment that is so crucial in this "post September 11" world. During 2002, 1 Easton resident received 8 hours of mental health services from our Agency. Thank you for making this possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane C. MacKay, Area Director

NORTH COUNTRY HOME HEALTH AGENCY, INC.

Report of 2002 Services

Home care is critical to serving the growing health care need of this country. It provides care for the sick, disabled, and dying in their own home where they can be provided the highest quality of life, the greatest amount of freedom possible, and the highest degree of human dignity. These people include seniors who need help to stay in their own homes, adults who are caring for aging relatives, young people with chronic illness and people of all ages who are discharged from the hospital following stays that are still becoming shorter and shorter.

North Country Home Health and Hospice Agency staff assist people who are recuperating from surgery, individuals coping with chronic illnesses, and families and community members caring for loved ones and friends. Expensive hospital stays are reduced, moves to nursing homes are eliminated or delayed, and families are supported through the competent and comprehensive care provided by North Country Home Health and Hospice Agency staff.

North Country Home Health and Hospice Agency relies on Town support and individual donations to help underwrite the cost of providing home care services to people with limited or no health benefits. Because of your generosity and support, North Country Health and Hospice continues its 31-year tradition of responding to the home health and hospice needs of North Country residents.

As we struggle to deal with the difficult and time consuming issues facing home care today, the staff of North Country Health and Hospice Agency wants to thank you for your continued support so vital to helping people in your town be assured of continuing quality medical care at home.

Explanation of Services:

Skilled Services – shorter hospital stays and new technology allow many treatments to be done in the home, provided and administered by skilled professionals, such as nurses and therapists.

Supportive Care Services – home health aides, homemakers, and companions ensure ill and disabled persons can live in healthy households, have clean clothes, nutritious meals, and help with their activities of daily living.

Hospice Care – a holistic, family supportive, medically directed, team-oriented program that seeks to treat and comfort individuals and families coping with terminal illnesses.

Services provided to the Town of Easton in 2002 include:

Type of Care	# of Visits
Nursing	19
Physical/Occupational/Speech Therapy	21
Medical Social Service	6
Home Health Aide/Homemaker/Companion	10
Total	56

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Jurasek, Executive Director

HOSPICE OF THE LITTLETON AREA 2002 Annual Report

In this, our 13th year of town funding, Hospice of the Littleton Area provided services to a total of 202 patients and families in our service area, which includes the towns of Littleton, Bath, Bethlehem, Carroll (Twin Mountain), Franconia, Sugar Hill, Easton, Lisbon, Lyman, Landaff, Monroe, Woodsville/Haverhill, Woodstock and Lincoln.

Our director, volunteer coordinator and hospice volunteers provided supportive care in patient's homes, at Littleton Regional Hospital, or in nursing homes to 78 individuals and families coping with the advanced and final stages of illness. In addition, our bereavement care program supported a total of 124 clients through mailings, phone contact, one-on-one counseling sessions, and a bi-monthly grief support group. It should be noted that we started a new bi-monthly support group at the Haverhill Senior Center this year.

Hospice of the Littleton Area continues its partnership with two (2) area programs. We provide volunteer and bereavement services to the North Country Home Health Agency's Medicare Hospice Program and we offer supportive care to patients and families in the Hospice Room at Littleton Regional Hospital. In all our efforts this year, the Hospice of the Littleton Area staff and volunteers gave over 4200 hours in services.

Our Volunteer Coordinator conducted an annual six-week, (18-hour) Hospice Volunteer Training Program for individuals interested in becoming volunteers or increasing their knowledge about hospice care. Eight people completed our 2002 Spring Training Program. Since 1983, we have trained 266 people and currently we have 65 active volunteers available to support area residents.

There is *no charge* to patients or families for the services of Hospice of the Littleton Area, which was founded in 1983. This service is made possible through the generous support provided by the towns that we serve. Without the support of town funding we would be unable to continue to provide services to the many patients and families we serve.

Your support of Hospice of the Littleton Area is greatly appreciated as we continue to provide care to residents of area communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha A. Hill
Executive Director

**FEES
(Subject to Change)
Town of Easton**

Building Permit Application Fees

Up to 1300 sq. ft. - \$25.00

1300 - 2000 sq. ft. - \$30.00

Over 2000 sq. ft. - \$35.00

Alterations to Existing Structures - \$15.00

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**9-1-1 Building Numbering - \$20.00**

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Current Use Application - \$20.00

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**Reappraisal Charges - \$40.00**

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Copies

Taxpayers - \$.10 per page

Non-Taxpayers - \$.25 per page

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**Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances**

Taxpayers – Free

Non-Taxpayers - \$10.00

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Driveway Permit - \$20.00

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER

9-1-1

**POLICE – FIRE
MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

POLICE EMERGENCY

9-1-1

POLICE CHIEF

Robert Every — 823-8090

FIRE CHIEF

Charles Casey — 823-5045

FIRE WARDENS

Arthur Rainville — 823-9558

Gail Moody — 823-7161

Jon Place — 823-8759

TOWN CLERK'S HOURS

Telephone — 823-8017

Fax — 823-7780

Email — eastontownclerk@aaahawk.com

Monday Morning

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Thursday Afternoon

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Dogs must be Licensed by May 1, 2003

An up-to-date

DOG LICENSE & RABIES CERTIFICATE NUMBER
is required in Easton to License a dog.

A \$15.00 Forfeit if not Licensed by June 1st.

Selectmen meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Town of Easton
Post Office Box 741
Franconia, NH 03580

Attn: Rebecca M. Ernest



Julie Special Collections & Orchidaceae
10044 Library Way
Litchfield, NH 03824



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